

Juniata Shops, Machine Shop No. 1  
East of Fourth Avenue at Third Street  
Altoona  
Blair County  
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-232-F

HAER  
PA,  
7-ALTO,  
4-F-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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JUNIATA SHOPS, MACHINE SHOP NO. 1

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Location: East of Fourth Avenue at Third Street, Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania

USGS Quad: Altoona, Pennsylvania (1:24000)  
UTM: 17 E.721620 N.4490000

Date of Construction: 1890, 1903

Builder: Pennsylvania Railroad  
William H. Brown, Engineer

Present Owner: Conrail

Present Use: Manufacturing Railroad Rolling Stock

Significance: The Machine Shop No. 1 was one of the four original shop buildings constructed at Juniata.

Project Information: This project was undertaken by HAER in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project as part of an architectural survey covering a nine-county region in Southwestern Pennsylvania, Randall Cooley, Director. See HAER No. PA-108, Pennsylvania Railroad, Altoona Works, Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania for further project information and documentation.

Compiler: Peter Stott, Historian  
Gray Fitzsimons, Editor

## History:

Erected about 1890 the two-story machine shop was one of the four original shop buildings constructed at this time, on opposite sides at Juniata. It was laid out directly opposite the Blacksmith Shop so that forgings from the latter could pass directly to the machine shop where they were finished, reaching a completed stage about the center of the building. The cylinders and other castings entered the Machine Shop from the opposite end, and after going through the various machining operations, reached a completed stage where they met the frames and other forgings. From this point, the completed pieces passed through a side door to the adjacent Erecting Shop. On the second floor of the Machine Shop, lighter machine work was performed, such as making bolts, main and parallel rods, and the like. Originally only 258' in length, the building was extended to its present 579' about 1903-5. Over five hundred men, or slightly more than 30 percent of the Juniata work force, were employed in the Machine Shop in 1907. It was, according to drawings in 1925, equipped with four 5-ton cranes, a 10-ton crane, and a 20-ton crane.

Today, the shop still functions as a machine shop for Conrail, though modern production machinery has replaced the earliest equipment. Nevertheless, the open ceiling still shows evidence of the line-shafting which once powered the machine tools. The original wood-block floor has been replaced with concrete, however, the original brick pilasters and buttresses, as well as the second-story riveted steel I-beams and roof trusses remain in place.

## Sources:

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